

## SECTION I. (AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS)

Following is a listing of claims 1-32 as amended herein, with markings to show changes made:

1. (Currently amended) A method for separating ~~sugars, sugar, alcohols, other carbohydrates~~ sugars selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides, disaccharides, trisaccharides and oligosaccharides, corresponding sugar alcohols thereof, polyols and mixtures thereof from a solution containing ~~at least two of them~~ the same, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the method comprises at least one step in which a weakly basic anion exchange resin is used ~~in the~~ for chromatographic separation.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the solution containing said sugars, sugar alcohols, polyols and ~~other carbohydrates~~ mixtures thereof is fed into a chromatographic column containing the weakly basic anion exchange resin, eluting said column with an eluant and separating and recovering a product and/or products.
3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a weakly acid cation exchange resin is also used ~~in a chromatographic column~~.
4. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a strongly acid cation exchange resin is also used ~~in a chromatographic column~~.
5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the weakly basic anion exchange resin is an acrylic-based resin.
6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the weakly basic anion exchange resin is based on a resin selected from the group consisting of polystyrene resins, epichlorohydrin-based anion exchange resins, aminated

products of phenol or formaldehyde resins, aliphatic amines and ammonia polycondensation resins.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the resin is crosslinked with an aromatic crosslinker.
8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the resin is crosslinked with divinylbenzene.
9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the crosslinking degree is from about 1 to about 10 weight-% divinylbenzene.
10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the crosslinking degree is from about 3 to about 8 weight-% divinylbenzene.
11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the resin can be crosslinked with an aliphatic crosslinker, ~~such as~~ selected from the group consisting of isoprene, 1,7-octadiene, trivinylcyclohexane, diethylene glycol divinylether, N,N'-methylenebisacrylamide, N,N'-alkylenebisacrylamides, ethyleneglycol dimethacrylate, di-, tri-, tetra-, pentacrylate ~~or~~ and pentamethacrylate.
12. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the temperature of the column, the feed solution and the eluant is between 10 and 95.degree. C.
13. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 2, characterized in that the temperature of the column, the feed solution and the eluant is between 40 and 95.degree. C.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the particle size of the weakly basic anion exchange resin is from 10 to 2000 micrometers, preferably from 100 to 400 micrometers.
15. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pH of the feed solution is on the acidic side of the pH range.
16. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the eluant is water, and an aqueous solution, ~~an alcohol or a mixture thereof.~~
17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the eluant is water.
18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the eluant is condensate water.
19. (Cancelled).
20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~19~~ 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the monosaccharides to be separated are pentose, hexose, tetrose monosaccharides, deoxyhexose, deoxypentose or anhydroalditols.
21. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~19~~ 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the disaccharides to be separated are tetrose, pentose or hexose disaccharides.
22. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 to 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sugar alcohols to be separated are xylitol, erytritol or inositol.

23. (Cancelled).
24. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims claim 1 to 18, characterized in that~~ wherein sugars and sugar alcohols are separated from betaine.
25. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims claim 1 to 19, characterized in that~~ wherein the separated sugar is rhamnose.
26. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims claim 1 to 19, characterized in that~~ wherein the separated sugar is maltose.
27. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the separated sugar alcohol is inositol.
28. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~23~~ 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the separated polyol is glycerol.
29. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that~~ wherein the method is a batch process.
30. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that~~ wherein the method is a simulated moving bed system.
31. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~25~~ 30, characterized in that the simulated moving bed system is continuous.
32. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~25~~ 30, characterized in that the simulated moving bed system is sequential.